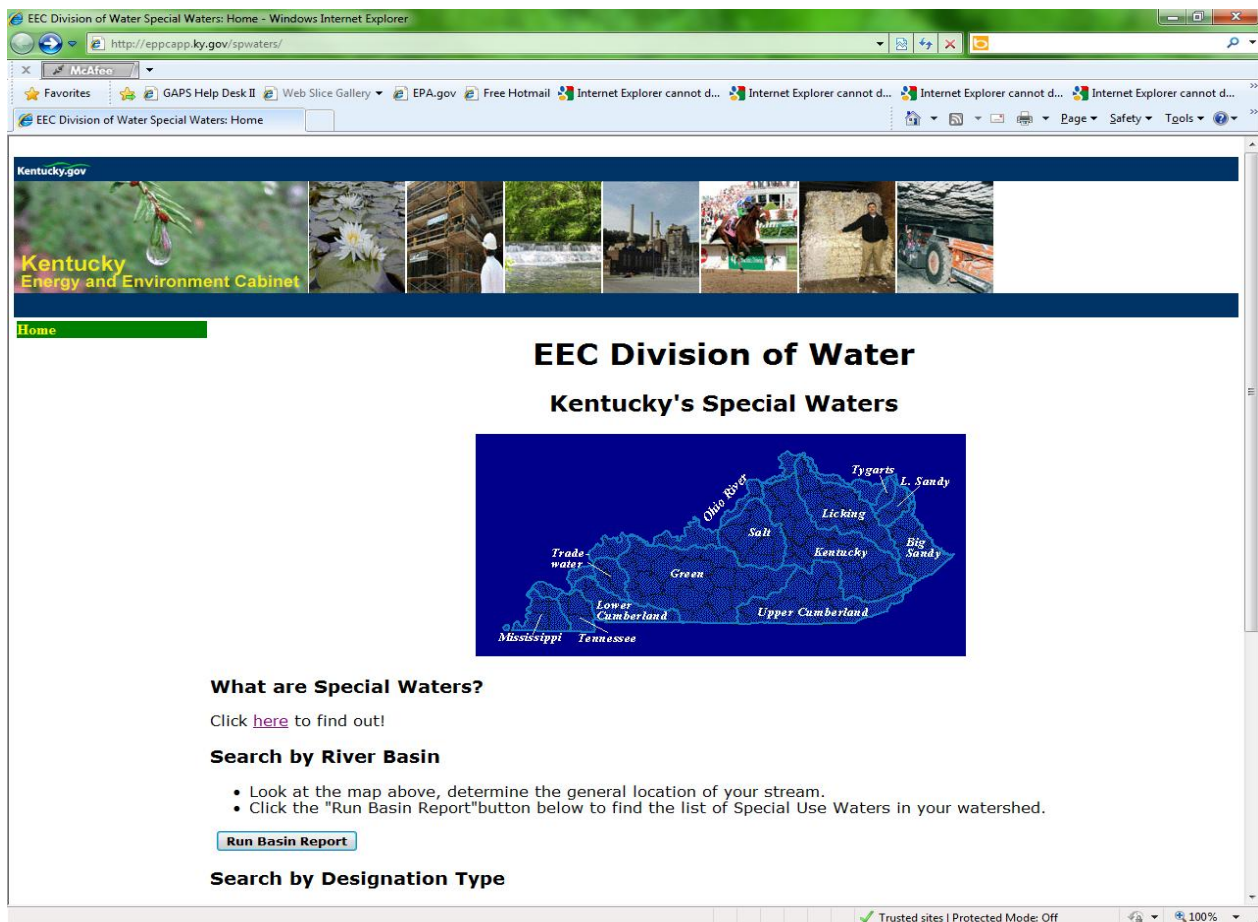


KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER

USER GUIDE FOR FINDING LISTINGS OF SPECIAL USE WATERS

QUESTION: WILL THIS ACTIVITY OCCUR WITH SURFACE WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH IDENTIFIED BY THE KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER AS OUTSTANDING STATE OR NATIONAL RESOURCE WATER, COLD WATER AQUATIC HABITAT, EXCEPTIONAL WATERS?

- The interactive [Special Use Waters](http://eppcapp.ky.gov/spwaters/) website enables users to search surface waters by River Basin listed as: Outstanding State Resource Waters designated use; antidegradation category waterbodies (exceptional and reference reach); State Wild Rivers; and federally designated wild or scenic rivers in tabular format (<http://eppcapp.ky.gov/spwaters/>).



- Once you have referred to the map provided to find the correct River Basin for the location of the surface water in question, click the "Run Basin Report" button (the report defaults to the Big Sandy River Basin). If one is unsure of the river basin, the "Search by Designation Type" will display statewide tabular listings of each type of special water.

Choose Basin : Big Sandy Choose basin from the dropdown list provided, then click the "Run Report" button. The report defaults to the Big Sandy basin.

1 of 1 100% Find | Next Select a format Export

Kentucky Division of Water

Details for Big Sandy River Basin

Waterbody Name	Counties	Boundary	Upstream Mile Point	Downstream Mile Point	Length of Designated Segment	Acres (Reservoirs and Lakes)	Cold Water Aquatic Habitat
Paint Creek	Johnson	River Mile 8.3 (Paintsville Lake Dam) to Levisa Fork	8.3	0	8.3		Y
Paintsville Lake	Johnson, Morgan	Entire reservoir				1139	Y
Hobbs Fork	Martin	Mouth to Headwaters	3.9	0	3.9		
Hobbs Fork Unidentified Tributary	Martin	Hobbs Fork of Pigeonroost Fork to Headwaters	0.55	0	0.55		
Lower Pigeon Branch	Pike	Left Fork to Headwaters	1.9	0.6	1.3		
Russell Fork	Pike	Clinch Field RR Yard off Hwy 80 to Virginia State	16.5	15	1.5		

- Select the correct basin from the "Choose Basin" dropdown list provided, and then click the "Run Report" button. This search provides a table that lists of Special Use Waters in each River Basin in Kentucky which can be selected for export (Excel or Acrobat [PDF]). Please note that there could be more than one page of listings.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE SPECIAL WATERS?

- Click [Special Use Waters](http://water.ky.gov/waterquality/Pages/SpecialUseWaters.aspx) to find out background information, definitions, and maps (<http://water.ky.gov/waterquality/Pages/SpecialUseWaters.aspx>). Special use waters are rivers, streams and lakes listed in Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) that are worthy of additional protection (<http://lrc.ky.gov/kar/401/010/401/010/026.htm>) and (<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/401/010/030.htm>). These special uses include outstanding state resource waters, outstanding national resource waters, coldwater aquatic habitat, reference reach and exceptional waters, as well as other categories. Not included as special use waters are waterbodies designated by default as Warm Water Aquatic Habitat (WAH), Primary Contact Recreation (PCR), and Secondary Contact Recreation (SCR) and Domestic Water Supply (DWS).

SPECIAL USE WATER DEFINITIONS:

- **Outstanding state resource waters** (OSRW) includes certain unique waters of the Commonwealth, including those with federally threatened or endangered species (401 KAR 10:031, Section 8).
- **Outstanding National Resource Waters** (ONRW) are waters that meet the requirements for an outstanding state resource water classification and are of national ecological or recreational significance (401 KAR 10:030, Section 1).
- **Coldwater Aquatic Habitats** (CAH) means surface waters and associated substrate that will support indigenous aquatic life or self-sustaining or reproducing trout populations on a year-round basis (401 KAR 10:031, Section 4).
- **Exceptional Waters** means waterbodies whose quality exceeds that necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water. Waters placed in this category are reference reach waters, Kentucky Wild Rivers, some outstanding state resource waters and waters with "excellent" fish or macroinvertebrate communities (401 KAR 10:030 Section 1).
- **Reference Reach Waters** are a representative subpopulation of the least-impacted streams within a bioregion. These streams serve as chemical, physical and biological models from which to determine the degree of impairment (physical, chemical or biological) to similar stream systems in each representative bioregion. These are not necessarily pristine streams, but represent those least-disturbed conditions that are attainable in each bioregion.
- **Kentucky Wild Rivers** are portions of nine rivers of exceptional quality and aesthetic character have been designated as [Kentucky Wild Rivers](#). Each Wild River is actually a linear corridor encompassing all visible land on each side of the river up to a distance of 2,000 feet. Wild Rivers are designated by the state General Assembly in recognition of their unspoiled character and outstanding water quality and natural characteristics. In order to protect their features and quality, land-use changes are regulated by a permit system, and certain highly destructive land-use changes (for example, clear-cutting and strip mining) are prohibited within corridor boundaries.
- **Federal Scenic River Areas** is a classification of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542) and means those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Federal Wild River Areas** is a classification of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542) and means those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

For more information on Kentucky's Special Use Waters, please contact:

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